

BRIEF HISTORY

OF THE

New York National Freedmen's RELIEF ASSOCIATION.

TO WHICH ARE ADDED SOME INTERESTING DETAILS OF THE
WORK, TOGETHER WITH A BRIEF VIEW OF THE WHOLE
FIELD, AND THE OBJECTS TO BE ACCOMPLISH-
ED, CONCLUDING WITH THE FOURTH
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ASSO-
CIATION FOR 1865, WITH
STATEMENT AND
APPEAL.

"With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the
right, as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we
have begun."—*Abraham Lincoln.*

"By some its work may be thought the humblest of all; but I, believing
that the poor are God's especial care, venture to call it noblest of all."—
Chief Justice Chase.

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The facts and statements herewith presented are given, in order that the readers of this little volume may obtain a fuller appreciation of the vast work that is to be accomplished in the steady advancement of the nation to a higher and a better social life, and be prepared for the grand future which is to make all its glorious past dim in comparison.

He who doubts its final success must doubt the goodness of God toward man.

Should the statements here made commend themselves to the earnest advocates of human advancement, irrespective of race or color, we trust a large circulation will be secured by the agents and auxiliary societies connected with our Association.

THE FREEDMEN AND THEIR NEEDS.

PREVIOUS TO THE WAR.

LET us glance a moment at the population of the Southern States previous to the Rebellion, which has issued in the sudden liberation of over four millions of slaves:—

Maryland.....	with her	87,188
Virginia	"	490,887
North Carolina	"	331,081
South Carolina.....	"	402,541
Georgia.....	"	462,230
Florida	"	61,753
Alabama	"	435,132
Mississippi.....	"	436,696
Louisiana	"	331,726
Kentucky	"	255,400

To which we must add nearly the whole free colored population of the South, debarred by State enactment from the advantages of education enjoyed by the people of the North of all races: add to this the demoralizing influences of the slave system upon the poor white population of almost every Southern State. According to the census of 1850, prepared under the eye of Southern writers, no less than *six hundred thousand* white people are put down among the illiterate class, none of whom could read or write.

The antagonism between the two civilizations of the North and South had thus sufficient grounds, and which finally culminated in the disastrous overthrow of the South, but with it the liberation of millions of our countrymen from the rule of darkness and ignorance to the full dominion of a regenerated republic, whose mission is to secure freedom and happiness to *all* the people.

THE SEA ISLANDS.

As the war for freedom wore on, our forces advanced steadily into the dark domain. South Carolina possessed a much larger proportion of slaves to her population than perhaps any other State.

The luxuriant Sea Islands were noted for the fineness of the cotton there produced—which brought double the price in market of any other staple. The Islands were possessed and cultivated by a few of the largest planters, and were well stocked with slaves. Their splendid mansions adorned many of these beautiful Islands, and were admired by many from the North. By one of those secret expeditions, so successfully planned and executed by the Government, the forts guarding the entrance to Port Royal were suddenly captured by the expedition under Commodore Dupont and Major-General W. T. Sherman. So rapid were these movements, that the planters and their families had barely time to escape to the mainland, leaving thousands of their slaves relieved from bondage.

Our commanders had no time to pause in their appointed duties of crushing the rebellion. Some one must organize and direct the labors of the emancipated, whose

numbers were receiving continual accessions from the interior, escaping through our lines. They did the only thing they could do—they made earnest appeals to the people of the North for relief; and how generous was the response may be gathered from the statements contained in this little volume.

“ Who would not heed the voice of pleading, which seemed
Heart-full of pain and choked with tears,
It struggles up through sounds accursed of battle,
And thrills the soul with human hopes and fears.”

The New York National Freedmen's Relief Association was organized at a large meeting held in the hall of the Cooper Institute, on the 20th of February, 1862, in response to an appeal of the officers above referred to, who were in command of our military and naval forces at the Sea Islands. These Islands being occupied by our forces, the slaves were secure from all molestation. In a general order, issued on the 6th of the month, the helpless condition of the blacks within the vast area under their command was represented, calling upon the benevolent and philanthropic of the land for aid. The society was formally organized on the 22d of February, by the advice and under the sanction of Secretary Chase, now Chief-Justice of the United States.

OBJECTS.

These were briefly stated—

1. To relieve the sufferings of the freedmen, their women and children, as they come within our army lines; by clothing the ragged and naked; furnishing

hospitals and medicine for the sick; asylums for the orphans, and shelter for the houseless, by aiding in the erection of hundreds of cabins.

2. To aid in placing the freedmen in positions of self sustenance, by procuring them employment; furnishing them agricultural implements and seeds suitable for the field and garden; giving them instructions in the best modes of cultivation; and encouraging the mechanic by furnishing tools and stock to the carpenter, blacksmith, and shoemaker.

3. To establish and sustain schools at all points in the South, where it is safe to do so, for the education of the freedmen and their children.

4. Relief is also furnished to suffering white loyal refugees, to the extent of the means contributed for this specific object, and upon this deserving class thousands of dollars have been expended.

In less than one year over fifty teachers and superintendents were in the service of the Association, conducting schools with unexampled success; day schools for children and youth, night schools for adults, and subsequently industrial schools, for the instruction of the women in the cutting and making of clothes for themselves and their families, and Sunday-schools for their religious and moral training.

The eagerness with which the freedmen seized upon these advantages is amply illustrated in the past three years' history of these Islands. Thousands of pupils have thronged our schools, abandoned plantations have been cultivated by free negro labor, comfort and social enjoyment have visited thousands of cabins. It was consid-

ered an important part of our work to place them in a position of self-support, without aid from Government or private charities.

To cultivate the soil, we have sent them garden-seeds, plows, hoes, and other agricultural implements, and, in a few instances, blacksmiths, carpenters, and shoemakers' tools in considerable quantities. Tons of nails were sent, and aid in the erection of sawmills, whereby to procure materials for their cabins and school-houses.

One hundred thousand garments were distributed during the first year, 1862, and large quantities of supplies for the farm and the garden were sent. Primers and spelling-books were scattered over the Islands in large numbers, and in the Sunday-schools thousands of pages of the religious publications of the North. Before the close of the second year, thousands who were dependent on Government had greatly improved their condition and become self-supporting.

One of our agents wrote us, that while those on the large plantations, as a general thing, improved their condition, the colored lessees of small farms have greatly improved theirs. They all seem industrious and self-denying—are more considerate and calculating—have greater self-respect—are desirous of having their children taught, and of knowing how to read and write themselves. Of the thirty who leased land about Helena, ten of them have realized thirty-one thousand dollars (\$31,000) from their crops; all of them have made money.

Colonel Eaton, in charge of escaped slaves in the Tennessee district, reported, that of seventy-two thousand

received into his department in two years, sixty-two thousand had become self-supporting; and the remaining ten thousand were receiving partial support from Government. He had the fullest confidence in their becoming generally self-supporting. He gave an anecdote of one, as an example of many. The freedman was working on his own land. "Why, Sambo, you work much harder now than you did for master?" "Yes, massa; there's one little word in it, that's all. We used to work for the lash, now we works for the cash." Said an inspector to another negro: "Will you be able to support yourself, Sambo?" Said Sambo: "I'se been carrying on de old plantation—I'se been supporting massa and all de fam'ly for twenty years; and now I'se got de massa and all de fam'ly off my hands, I 'spects I shall be able to keep myself."

In the Vicksburg district, one hundred and sixty-two plantations, containing seventy-four thousand nine hundred and eighty-one acres, were cultivated, employing nine thousand one hundred and ninety-two freedmen, and supporting a population of seventeen thousand five hundred. Forty thousand bales of cotton were expected as the result of the year's labor, but the army-worm reduced the amount to eight thousand bales. In another district, on the Mississippi, one hundred and eighty plantations, containing five thousand eight hundred and seventy acres, were leased last year to the freedmen, who employed three hundred and eighty laborers in the cultivation, and supported fifteen hundred souls. In the Department of the Tennessee, the aggregate income of the colored lessees was reported at about forty thousand dol-

lars. In the same year, at Vicksburg, when the wood-yards were turned over to the Quartermaster's Department, there had been cut and delivered to steamboats over sixty thousand cords of wood, bringing to the freed-men over one hundred and twenty thousand dollars, and saving to the Government an expense of about ninety thousand dollars more, by selling at one dollar and fifty cents per cord less than it could have been obtained from private parties. It should also be added, that several thousand cords of this wood were taken by the Government, and no vouchers given by the authorities taking it, being a clean gift from the negroes to the Government.

Chaplain Fisk states that there are many instances in which a family contrives to get a good support from five acres, farmed with the hoe alone. Many of them add to their resources by cutting wood. I doubt if any of these five-acre men have, for months, required or received any aid from Government, or will ever require it in future. The most successful one, Robert Miner, had eighty acres in cotton, giving forty bales; and forty acres in corn. One man in St. Helena district sold his forty acres of cotton, before the worm appeared, for eight thousand dollars; another, twenty-four acres, for six thousand dollars; another, thirteen acres, for four thousand dollars; while the cultivators of ten-acres averaged about five hundred dollars each.

As the Government advanced in its re-occupancy of Southern soil, the Association continued to send its agents and supplies for the destitute, and plant its schools. It occupied important places on the Mississip-

pl, distributing large quantities of clothing for the destitute at Vicksburg, De Soto, Natchez, and other places. On the Atlantic coast, occupying portions of Maryland, the District of Columbia, Virginia, the Carolinas, Georgia, and Florida. It has at present thirteen thousand one hundred and sixty-seven pupils (13,167), with an average attendance of nearly ten thousand in the day schools, besides adults of all ages in the night schools. A glance at our annual reports since February, 1862, shows the following rapid increase of our income.

In 1862 the receipts were about six thousand dollars, not including goods of which no value was reported. In 1863 its receipts were one hundred and nine thousand four hundred and seventy dollars and thirteen cents, of which forty-nine thousand and forty-seven dollars and seventy-four cents was in clothing. In 1864 its receipts were two hundred and twenty-nine thousand five hundred and eighty-seven dollars and eighty-five cents, of which eighty-nine thousand eight hundred and seventy-seven dollars and fifty-eight cents were in various kinds of merchandise. We append to this statement a full report of our finances, of which the following is an abstract. The entire income of the Association, for the year 1865, was two hundred and ninety-one thousand six hundred and twenty-four dollars and sixty-five cents. The people of the United States contributed the net amount of ninety-nine thousand two hundred and thirty-five dollars and ninety-seven cents in money, and seventy-two thousand five hundred and sixty-two dollars and nineteen cents in goods. England and the continent contributed, in cash, forty thousand six hundred and

ninety dollars and twenty-one cents; in merchandise, thirty-seven thousand eight hundred and fifty-three dollars and twenty-two cents. The greater proportion of these donations came from the English. In 1864, it distributed over two hundred thousand garments. Last year it far exceeded this result. The amount of clothing and merchandise disbursed was one hundred and forty-two thousand four hundred and five dollars and twenty-three cents. It has over two hundred and eight teachers in the different Atlantic States. It has built and aided in building several school-houses.

Five thousand teachers could be put in the field, if the funds to support them are guaranteed. Twenty thousand teachers can be employed, each with a class of fifty scholars. There are a larger number of freedmen eager to be taught, but the hostility of the whites in the interior counties, and the absence of the necessary buildings, must leave them outside of the school districts for a few years to come.

The cost of supporting schools in the South averages five hundred dollars for each teacher, or ten dollars annually for each pupil. This includes salaries, transportation, board of teachers, and cost of school-books and apparatus. An estimate of the expense of education, at this rate—one million of freedmen for the next three years—gives thirty million dollars. This is a huge sum. But it is less than the cost of two weeks of war—of the war which was the result of the ignorance of the masses in the Southern States.*

* *New York Evening Post.*

The appeals for physical relief are pressing. It is not likely that they will be heard beyond the present season. But now a neglect to attend to them will bring death to many an orphan and sick and aged freedman.

SOME INCIDENTS OF OUR WORK.

In 1865 we had at Beaufort, S. C., four schools with eight teachers, also four teachers who taught in the hospitals or at large, that is, gave instruction in families, not only from books, but in sewing and knitting, and in the domestic matters of the household. We had eight plantation-schools on Port Royal Island, with twelve teachers, the most distant about twelve miles from Beaufort; one school on Barnwell Island, with two teachers, situated between Port Royal and the mainland; one school and teacher on Paris Island, about fifteen miles from Beaufort; four schools, with five teachers, on Hilton Head Island, the most distant, twenty-five miles; three schools on Edisto Island, with three teachers, distant fifty miles from Beaufort; three schools and six teachers on St. Helena Island, and two schools with three teachers on Ladies' Island.

The schools had one session daily, of four hours, from nine o'clock to one.

A TOUR OF INSPECTION.

Now go with me into these schools. If we desire to go to one of the most distant first, say on Hilton Head, we must go to the provost-marshal to obtain a pass, then to the quartermaster's for a transportation ticket. These secured, we step on board of the steamer, which lands us

in about two hours on Hilton Head. There we must go through the same process for a pass, &c., to procure an ambulance and a safe transit to the plantation, some ten miles out upon the island. Having arrived, we find a school of fifty pupils, under the charge of a faithful teacher. We are pleased with its appearance, and the eager desire of these children to learn. The teacher takes a kindly interest in her work, not only in the school-room, but in her missionary labors among the people. She has been furnished with a horse and side-saddle, with which she makes stated visits to the more distant families, and is always warmly welcomed.

NED LLOYD WHITE.

On our return we can stop at Mitchellville, and enter a small but comfortable school-house built by the persevering exertions of a negro, and the school in it was formerly taught by him. But we find his place occupied by a female, for he has emigrated to Edisto Island, his place-of nativity. This is an instance to illustrate the strong attachment the negro has for his native home. This man, N. L. White, was well situated, with a good nouse of his own and a nice garden patch, yet he leaves all to begin anew again on the spot where he was born. He sold his house, but not the school-house. That he desires to be used for the purpose it was built. Now, again, see the earnestness of this man. As soon as he is tolerably settled in his new home, he gathers the children together for the establishment of another school; he succeeds, and reports the fact to me. Noble man! with a heart full of earnest purpose to improve his race. In

his efforts, though unconscious of it, he elevates himself.

Having visited one of the plantation schools, you have an idea of all, except in some few instances, where the numbers will admit of it; then they are graded like the town schools. Their proficiency depends chiefly upon the tact and fidelity of the teacher. Some are better than others, for all teachers are not equally gifted.

The schools of Beaufort have been properly graded, and the teachers pursue their work of instruction in systematic order. And as this place is the headquarters, not only of the school interest, but of the military also, these schools are more frequently visited than any others.

In looking through my journal, I find the schools have been visited by many distinguished persons from the North. I quote therefrom, that you may know their impressions on visiting them:

January 19th. General Howard passed nearly three hours in them, and so delighted was he, that he said, in addressing the school: "I wish I were in New York, or some other great central place in the North, that I might tell what I have witnessed here to-day." *

Says the Rev. T. W. Briggs, of the pupils in North Carolina: "The children seem quite ambitious to improve; frequently they carry their books home. In passing through the camps I have often been assailed by little urchins holding out their slates: 'Please, sir, set me a copy.' And it is no uncommon thing for children

* Rev. George Newcomb's Report for 1865.

'just let loose from school,' to gather in groups and go through with a spelling exercise in fine style, and close off with 'Hail Columbia.' "

The capture of Charleston found the colored people ready to welcome the Yankees as their deliverers. They spoke of their coming as the advent of the Messiah, and, sometimes, in their extravagant demonstrations of joy, call the Yankees the Individual Messiah.

Passing along King Street, near the citadel, I met an old negress with a basket on her arm, a broad-brimmed straw hat on her head, wearing a brown dress and roundabout. She knew that I was a Yankee, and made a profound courtesy.

"How do you do, Auntie?" was my salutation.

"Oh, bress de Lord, I'se very well, tank you," grasping my hand, and dancing for joy. "I am sixty-nine years old," she said, "but I feel as if I wasn't but sixteen." She broke into a chant—

"Ye's long been a-comin',
Ye's long been a-comin',
Ye's long been a-comin',
For to take de land;

"And now ye's a-comin',
And now ye's a-comin',
And now ye's a-cojnin',
For to rule de land;

This was followed by "bressing of de Lord."

"Then you are glad the Yankees are here?" I said.

"Oh! chile, I can't bress de Lord enough; but I doesn't call you Yankees."

"What do you call us?"

"I call you Jesus's aids, and I call your head man de Messiah." She burst out into a rhapsody of hallelujahs, thanksgivings, and praises, calling us the agents of Providence. "I can't bress de Lord enough; and bress you. chile, I can't love you enough, for comin'," she exclaimed.

"Were you not afraid, aunty, when the shells fell into the town?"

She straightened up, raised her eyes, and with a look of triumphant joy said:

"When Mr. Gillmore fired de big gun, and I hear de shell a-rushin' ober my head, I say, come, dear Jesus, and I feel nearer to heaben dan I eber feel before!"

WHAT MAY BE DONE.

Charleston has excellent school-houses, which may be opened immediately for the benefit of every colored child in the city. The time has come to hit caste and aristocracy and secession a telling blow. By opening those school-houses to children, without distinction of color they would be quickly filled.

"Shall we be allowed to send our children to school?" was the inquiry of a colored woman. "Certainly," I replied. "When will the schools begin?" was the next inquiry. There is abundance of work for the friends of the freedmen. The field is widening.*

Scarcely was the city occupied by our forces, when a rapid organization of the schools followed; by the 31st

* "Carleton's" Letter to the *Boston Journal*.

of March the Superintendent of Public Education* reported as follows:

To-day, after averaging the past week, we find the attendance as follows:

At the Morris Street School	962
At the Ashley Street School (girls)	211
At the St. Philip Street School	850
At the Normal School	511
At the King Street School (boys)	148
At the Meeting Street School	211
At the St. Michael's School.....	221
Total	<u>3,114</u>

Eighty-three teachers are employed; seventy-four of them residents of Charleston before the evacuation by the insurgents. The salaries of these teachers are paid by the anti-slavery people of the North—by the National Freedmen's Relief Association, and the New England Freedmen's Aid Society. This fact deserves an official record, as it is an unanswerable reply to those who charge that the friends of the slave are the enemies of their old masters.

The uniform report from all the teachers is, that the children are rapidly improving. The system adopted here of short sessions seems to have given general satisfaction. They have been from 9 A. M. to 12.30 P. M.; but during this month they will be extended half an hour, which will insure, apart from the recess, opening exercises, singing, and gymnastics, three hours of study. For

* See the Report of the Superintendent, James Redpath, to Colonel Burney, in March, 1865.

this climate, or young children anywhere, this is quite enough. The deportment of the children has improved in so marked a degree, that even the enemies of the free schools have been forced to recognize it.

Before the close of April over thirty teachers from the North had arrived, and were conducting the schools in the best methods of New York and New England.

Before we leave Charleston, it will be well to consider another noble charity, which the Association has conducted to the extent of its means.

ORPHAN ASYLUMS.

Orphanage, to an extent without a parallel, except it may be in Africa, has resulted from slavery and the disasters of the war. These abandoned children were found on the plantations and in the cabins of the freedmen, most of whom were hardly able to care for their own offspring, who had been preserved, yet they did not abandon these helpless ones, willing in most instances to share their scanty subsistence until aid should come. Among the earliest philanthropists was Miss Chloe Merrick, sent out by our Association, and supported, in part, by the Syracuse Freedman's Aid Society, of which the Rev. Samuel J. May is the president.

Proceeding to Beaufort, S. C., she conferred with General Saxton, whose well-known kindness of heart induced him to encourage every effort to relieve the distressed and elevate the degraded. It was decided that Fernandina, Fla., offered the most favorable site for such an asylum. Possession was obtained of the Finnegan Estate, formerly the property of a rebel general of that

name. Here were gathered from the Department of the South many of these poor outcasts, and their wants tenderly cared for. According to the last report, the whole number received since its foundation is one hundred and fifty. The number at present in the Asylum is fifty.

Much praise is justly due the noble woman whose philanthropy and industry has saved so many poor children from the miseries of neglect, and found them homes where they may be happy and useful to others. *"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, ye have done it unto me."*

THE COLONEL SHAW ORPHAN HOME.

This institution has at present a local habitation in the Memminger House, Charleston, S. C. It is named after him who was the first to lay down his life, at the head of his brave colored troops, in the defenses of this very city, near which his ashes repose. A fitting monument of his deeds.

We have no space to go into all the details of the difficulty of procuring furniture and other necessary things. After a few weeks of hard work the building was opened, and the children began to flock in. At this date, February 15th, the Superintendent reports two hundred and thirty-eight received since its foundation in April, 1865—and eighty-five at present in the institution. The transfer of abandoned property to their former owners has caused several changes. It is now located in the Memminger Mansion. It may not seem unjust that the estate of the rebel Secretary of the Treasury, which in all probability had been accumulated through the traffic in hu-

man chattels and the slaves' toil, should be used as a home for the orphans made so by the wrongs of a cruel enslavement.

From the Assistant Matron and accomplished teacher we have received the following interesting account of its present condition:—

“THE MEMMINGER HOUSE,

Inscribed, ‘Colonel Shaw Orphan Home,’ is an almost baronial estate, situated on the corner of two of the principal streets of the city; the house, built of brick, is three stories high—commodious and airy. The drawing-rooms, separated by solid mahogany folding-doors, serve, one as school-room, the other as sleeping-room for our oldest boys; the chambers over these, and corresponding in size and elegance, are used, one for the smaller boys, the others for the girls; they have iron bedsteads, with good, clean straw mattresses, plenty of blankets, sheets, and a clean white counterpane for each bed. The hall, in size and height, is truly grand, and, if not originally built to accommodate colored children, they freely use it; it never occurs to them, that in days gone by their backs would have suffered for simply peeping in. The body of a child, in a fine coffin, was being carried out of the gate for burial as two aristocratic Charlestonians happened to be passing by. One says to the other, ‘Another nigger free, and out of that house, too.’ ‘My God!’ says his companion, “Memminger’s house a nigger orphan asylum.’

“Our garden is, by far, the most attractive of any we have seen—fig, orange, pomegranate, with magnolia and

other ornamental trees in abundance, make a delightful shade; the walks, artistically laid out, are bordered with different species of shrubs; the one leading from the main entrance to the house is of marble in mosaic, and the laurel hedge on either side is higher than our heads; arbors and trellises, covered with healthy-looking grapevines and rare rosebushes, are scattered promiscuously around. Every thing, of course, bears evidence of neglect, but nature has performed well her part, and, as if bidding defiance to overseer and owner, and as if considering the most worthy object, perseveres in keeping for our children a play-ground—theirs by right. A pretty little house, built by the former owner for his own son, to be used as a sort of smoking and bath house, is occupied by our cook and his family. The servants' quarters, a building combining kitchen and wash-room, with comfortable apartments in the second story, which we use as a hospital, is kept, by our nurse, *neat* and orderly, subject at any time to family inspection. The inclosure is high, and the seclusion is just what is needed.

“Our daily order of exercises is thus: Breakfast, immediately following prayers, at seven o'clock; school commences at nine, with one session closing at half-past one; dinner at two o'clock; supper at five; at six o'clock evening prayers, and bed time at seven. Sundays the same, with the exception of Sabbath-school, which is attended by a colored minister.

“We are furnished by the city with an excellent physician. He comes every morning and provides medicine at city expenses. We have had some extreme cases, and he has spared no pains to relieve them. The general

health of the children is good ; they all seem to be happy, and are grateful for every thing that is done for them." *

One of our teachers writes us :—

" CHRISTMAS DAY

At the Asylum was like glorious sunshine after a long storm. Love, sympathy, and care make a home, and this is really one to these orphan children. It is not often that children, even in the land of old 'Kris Kringle's' origin, enjoy more keenly the festivities of this day. Santa Claus, as we style this very benevolent individual, was there in unusual glory—a black brother, in truth, fantastically covered with toys of all sorts, from a mock pistol to a tin whistle; the gifts, I believe, of some kind lady in New York.† Ten thousand thanks to her in the children's name. I venture to say that among all her good deeds she never did one which made more hearts really happy. The colored churches, and our schools also, contributed a sum of money sufficient to give them a good dinner. It was eminently successful, if I may judge from the sly remarks and bright eyes of the children. Our Orphan House is a great blessing to these poor little children, scattered far and wide, as leaves are blown from the parent tree, after the tornado of war swept through the land. Left to the tender mercies of the world, and it is a cold one at best, I do not doubt that nearly all of them would have perished of neglect, if it

* Mrs. Carrie M. Chamberlin's letter to Mr. Shaw, January 30, 1866.

† The gift of Miss Jane S. Woolsey, of New York.

were not for this blessed institution. Nothing is a more striking comment on the changeableness of human affairs. One can imagine the grand, lofty old rooms furnished with all that was elegant; the fine old Southern gentleman admiring it all in the pride of his wealth, little dreaming that in a few short months he should be an exile from his home; that his own despised slaves should occupy his place. I like to watch the happy children dancing up and down the walks of the really beautiful garden, or see them in their comfortable school-room receiving the best of instruction from a Yankee school-ma'am. They look so comfortably clad and so well fed. Shutting out the fears we sometimes have, one indulges such hopes for the future; pictures these little ones going forth as missionaries to their own race, and returning away off in the future, with abundant fruits of this philanthropy."

OUR SCHOOLS.

These are free to all who will come. We have in the District of Columbia thirteen teachers and six hundred and ninety-four (694) pupils, with an average attendance of four hundred and eighty-five (485).

In Maryland, six, with three hundred and forty-nine (349).

Virginia, forty-five teachers and two thousand five hundred and sixty-eight (2,568).

North Carolina, forty-eight teachers and three thousand five hundred and ninety-one (3,591).

South Carolina, sixty-five teachers and three thousand eight hundred and seventy-four (3,874).

Georgia, three teachers and two hundred and one (201).

Florida, twenty-four and one thousand eight hundred and thirty-five (1,535).

New Orleans, one teacher in the Orphan Asylum, of which Madame De Mortie is the superintendent; there are fifty-five pupils in the school: making, in all the schools, thirteen thousand one hundred and sixty-seven (13,167). We have received many interesting details of this institution; of the unexpected meeting of parents and children, each supposing the other dead, or separated by the war beyond the hope of ever again meeting, of their progress in their studies, and their general good conduct, but we have not the space for them. We could fill this little volume with many pleasing incidents, gathered by our teachers. We select one more. Mrs. H. C. Fisher, at Norfolk, Va., writes as follows:—

“THEIR THIRST FOR KNOWLEDGE.

“Not long since a girl came into the school, apparently young, and very well to do for her class. She had come from the far South, and had had no opportunities for school before. She pleaded earnestly to be taught *fast*, to be taught *extra*, and offered to pay for it, if *extra* pains might be taken with her.

“We have an old woman, possibly eighty years of age, and nearly blind. She seems really past comprehending the mystery of learning, and one would think must have outlived the desire or ability to learn. But no. Though age has almost entirely shattered her memory and enfeebled her mind, she is a regular attendant of the school, and has been since they were first started. She is always

there, as eager to be taught as a child after a toy, sitting the long evening, staring at her book through cracked spectacles, and conning over the hopeless maze of letters, with a patient perseverance and anxiety that is pitiful to see. No one has the heart to turn her away, discouraging as seems the prospect of teaching her any thing of amount. But even she can learn something, for she knows her letters passably well, though it has taken her I don't know how many months to accomplish that. As an agreeable variety, it is not an unfrequent thing for a pupil to learn in an evening letters of which he or she knew nothing previously.

“THEIR CHARITY FOR EACH OTHER.

“I have been greatly struck with the charity of these colored people. If ever the golden rule had a literal application, it is among them—to do to others as they would that they should do to them. There are few of them even comfortably situated for this world's goods. Yet their charity is the most extensive, hearty, genuine thing imaginable. They have innumerable organizations for the relief of the aged, the helpless, or needy, from whatever cause. They relieve them, too, so far as dividing crusts will do it. They do all they can.

“I know of a great many cases where poor women, past the prime of life, and with no visible means of support, are housing, out of pure, sweet charity, whole families of children, not their own—in some instances, not of the least kindred. I have in my mind now one case, in which a woman nearly sixty, after inconceivable difficulty, got together the orphan children of a brother, five in

number, and scattered to the four winds, as you might say (somewhere in Richmond). The same woman supports, in addition to these, two children not her own—one, the child of a woman who was sent, long ago, in *slave* days, to Texas, and has never come back. This last is a little girl of eight or nine years, very light, very pretty, with wavy hair, a sweet expression of countenance, and very bright, endearing ways. Her adopted parent—this poor colored woman—has taught her constantly and faithfully of her slave mother, has kept the poor creature's memory so fresh in the mind of her child that she yearns for her coming as though she could remember her, and can scarcely talk of her without tears. She is in my day school; and I never, in my schools at the North, loved one of my white pupils better than I do little Katy."

We can refer to one other interesting field.

"CHIMBORAZO.

"It is Chimborazo—not the snow-capped, cloud-invested South American mountain peak—but one of the seven hills of Richmond, capped with a camp of the 'nation's wards.' This hill is just outside the corporation limits, but overlooks the whole crescent of hills on which the city stands, and is immediately above the steamboat landing at 'Rocketts.' During the days of the rebellion, this camp was an extensive general hospital of one hundred wards, each a separate building, of the shabbiest construction, the whole being symmetrically arranged on an area of about ten acres. Now it furnishes temporary and very indifferent shelter to upward of one thousand

five hundred victims of a social institution, which a Richmond paper of to-day calls 'perfect,' and which the Richmond clergy call 'divine.' A camp of refugee freedmen is a characteristic windfall of war and slavery. It has not its likeness in the world's history, and the pattern, it is to be hoped, will soon be lost forever. Like its mountain namesake, it has sublime heights and fearful depths—heights of faith and hope, not only without sight, but against sight, and depths of destitution, debasement, and suffering. Its inhabitants, driven with loving kicks (the ex-slaveholders say *they* are the best friends of the negro) from the lands they had subdued, the houses they had built, and the crops they had just harvested, are gathered here in hunger and nakedness. In many instances they come separately—widows and forsaken women, young boys and girls, stray waifs, without living relatives that they know of, crippled old men, the diseased and helpless of all ages, women and children without husbands and fathers—such is a considerable part of the population. A majority, however, are able-bodied, and self-sustaining, when employment can be had. But against their will they have been forced into a condition of partial dependence. All are in ignorance, all have been trained in the violation of good morals, and tempted by wrong and suffering into vicious habits. Go through the camp and behold the perfect work of the barbarism of slavery!

"FAITHFUL LABORERS.

"Now see what Christian benevolence is doing. The New York National Freedmen's Relief Association sends

six faithful teachers to instruct the children in day school and the adults in night school; and supports a colored man, of excellent spirit and respectable talents as assistant to the teachers, and as minister to the camp. He conducts their worship, and buries their dead. The teachers are Rev. John Walker, principal, Misses L. Williams, L. G. Campbell, Martha A. Cooke, Mary Cooke, and Lois Wadsworth. A part of these are veterans in the work, and the rest rapidly becoming so, valiant service make veterans. More than four hundred children and one hundred and fifty adults receive daily lessons.

"CLOTHING.

"But the relief work necessarily commands a large share of the charity of your Association, and of the labors of the teachers.

"The clothing and cloths are given to the necessitous and sold at a very small price to those able to pay. The cash is expended principally in fuel, but partially in food for the sick and hungry. The benefactions, in this camp are bestowed in the right way, and that is a very laborious way, viz., by a thorough personal examination of every case that seeks or receives relief. It should be said that the clothing has not all been given out in the camp; a very considerable amount has gone to outside sufferers.

"Much as the teachers are doing, they only do what any one whose heart is flesh would do, if compelled to see what they can not help seeing. As it is, they do not reach the boundaries of the suffering within their sphere

of labor; their supplies are limited, and the winter is not past.

"An Industrial Institution is maintained in the camp by the Friends, at the head of which is Miss Smiley, whom thousands of the freed people, in various parts of the South, unite in calling 'blessed.' Aside from her great assistance in clothing the naked, she feeds and warms those who have need, as far as she can reach them.

"I have written thus particularly of this field, because it has come so much under my personal observation."*

* Letter of R. M. Manly, Superintendent of Freedmen's Schools, Virginia, February 2, 1866.

STATEMENT AND APPEAL.

In presenting our Fourth Annual Report, we have a few earnest words to say to the friends of the four millions of the lately enfranchised people of the South.

A perusal of the report shows that nearly one-half of our annual income (one hundred and forty-two thousand four hundred and five dollars and twenty-three cents) has been contributed and expended for the physical relief of those who have been left destitute by slavery and the convulsions of war. This demand, we trust, will not be so great in another season. And yet he who expects four millions of *slaves*, suddenly emancipated in the midst of war, in the short space of one or five years, to present no objects of pity, no aged, no sick, no orphans, to be supported by charity, is expecting what has never been true of the same number of white people anywhere. For educational purposes we have been able to expend, including our liabilities for the current school-season, about one hundred and twenty thousand dollars. This amount has enabled us to support in the field a little over two hundred teachers, who have under their instruction about ten thousand pupils. Certainly not over one thousand two hundred teachers are employed by the various branches of the American Freedmen's and Union Commission and other societies who educate the freedmen, and they have less than eighty thousand pupils in their schools. We believe we are safe in saying that there are one million of freedmen and their children who are eager for the instruction provided by free common schools.

The twenty thousand teachers needed for this number of pupils would require, estimating five hundred dollars as the annual cost of each teacher, ten million dollars, or, according to the estimate of a writer in the *New York Evening Post*, thirty million dollars for three years. This is a large sum. But it is less than the cost of two weeks of war—of the war which was the result of the ignorance of the masses in the Southern States. Great as this sum appears, it is but ten dollars annually for each pupil.

We submit to the Christian, the statesman, and the patriot, of a land which boasts of its freedom, and of its noble institutions for the free education of every white child within its borders, whether it would not be economy, in more ways than one, to extend the same provision for the free education of these "Nation's wards," whom God, by a mighty arm, has laid at our doors, with the evident command: "Go, teach this child."

Salaries and expenses of officers, superintendents, teachers, and distributing agents, from January 1 to December 30, 1865.		
Manufacturing clothing	"	\$60,590 41
Freight and cartage on supplies	"	815 91
Insurance, interest, and exchange	"	4,527 17
Postage and revenue stamps	"	1,922 12
Advertising	"	698 72
Rent, gas, and incidental expenses of office, from January 1 to December 30, 1865.	"	372 09
Publishing the <i>National Freedman</i> , from January 1 to December 30, 1865.		1,045 13
Supplies distributed or sold, from January 1 to December 30, 1865.		4,187 54
Supplies in process of distribution.		\$142,405 23
		38,625 56
		<hr/> *181,030 79
Amount in treasury at date.		36,436 56
Balance to be provided before August 1, 1866, not allowing for any increase in the present number of teachers or for the after continuance of the work of the Association.		45,330 94
		<hr/> \$336,955 59
		<hr/>

New York, December 30, 1865.

* Goods to the amount of \$45,053.29 having been purchased.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

NEW YORK, *January 4, 1866.*

TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES—

In accordance with the direction of the Board, you Committee herewith respectfully submit a statement of the financial condition of the Association.

A close estimate has been made of liabilities to the end of the current school year. It is obvious that justice to the teachers in our employ, tolling amid many privations, with little more than a bare support, demand that their scanty salaries should be secured to them, the means of their return home assured, and the office with which they communicate retained until the close of the engagements. We have now two hundred and six persons commissioned by the Association, laboring in various parts of the South; the number could be indefinitely increased; it is limited only by the means at our control.

The figures show an excess of liabilities over assets of forty-five thousand three hundred and thirty dollars and ninety-four cents, if we keep our present corps of teachers in the field. This amount will be lessened by as much, possibly, as seven thousand dollars, by return from sales of the supplies yet in process of distribution which may be sold to those able to purchase. But with this allowance, there yet remains a balance of over thirty-eight thousand dollars against the Association which we must appeal to the benevolence of the community to liquidate.

In view of these grave facts, your Committee have very reluctantly concluded that it is their duty to recommend to the Board to direct the Teachers' Committee to make no new engagements as long as the present unsatisfactory financial condition obtains.

For the Executive Committee,

CHARLES COLLINS, *Chairman.*

THE LADIES' COMMITTEE.

In order to decrease the expenses of collecting funds, and to increase our income for carrying on the great work of educating the freedmen, the Association is engaged in organizing Auxiliary Societies in every county of the State. This labor has been assumed by the Committee on Correspondence and Organization, whose rooms are at No. 22 Bible House, New York, where they will be glad to receive the letters or visits of members of auxiliary societies or of persons desiring to organize branches in localities as yet unvisited by our regular agents.

MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE ON CORRESPONDENCE AND ORGANIZATION,

MISS ELLEN COLLINS, *Chairman.*

MES. S. WRIB ROOSEVELT,

" JOSEPH SAMPSON,

" GEO. J. CORNELL,

" CHARLES R. LOWELL, JR.,

MISS SARAH HITCHCOCK,

" FANNY RUSSELL.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS.

- MISS ARNOLD, Westchester County, east side.
 MRS. VAN CORTLANDT, Westchester County, west side.
 " MITCHELL, Orange County.
 " HAMER, Washington Count.
 " McHARR, Otsego County.
 " REEFIELD, Orange County.
 " W. S. MILLER, Dutchess County.
 " WILLIAMS, Monroe County.
 MISS LANG, Madison County.
 " HARDY, Tompkins County.
 " F. FISK, Schenectady County.
 MRS. THORNDIKE, Newport, R. I.
 " S. A. ARNOLD, Madison County.
 MISS M. TOWNSEND, Orange County.
 MRS. HEEMAN GUILD, Delaware County.
 " WM. BAILEY, Albany and Schoharie Counties.
 " CHAR. G. JUDD, Yates County.
 " WREED, Franklin County.
 " ELIAS HAWLEY, Broome County.

The Constitution given below is such as has already been adopted by many of our auxiliaries: we publish for the convenience of new Societies:—

CONSTITUTION.

This organization shall be called "The ——— Freedmen's Aid Society," to be auxiliary to the Nation Freedmen's Relief Association, No. 76 John Street, New York, which is the State Branch of the American Freedmen's Aid Commission.

Its *object* shall be to furnish supplies and funds for the relief and instruction of the freedmen.

Its *officers* shall be a President, Vice-Presidents, Secretary, and Treasurer. These shall be chosen annually, and perform the usual duties of their respective offices. They shall together constitute an Executive Committee, to arrange and direct the business of the Society, and to devise the best means to promote its interests.

The Executive Committee shall appoint some of their own number (or others) to solicit membership, receive initiatory fees and monthly contributions, and to obtain supplies of money, clothing, bedding, dried fruit, and provisions, and to pack, mark, and forward boxes, &c.

Clothing, &c., should be sent to E. C. Estes, New York National Freedmen's Relief Association, No. 76 John Street, with the name of the town and Society forwarding the goods upon the corner of the cover, with an invoice in the box. A duplicate of the same should be mailed to "Committee on Correspondence, &c., 22 Bible House, New York."

Money should be sent to the Committee on Correspondence, &c., in checks made payable to the order of the Treasurer of the Association.

Any person may become a member of the Society by the payment of — as an initiation fee. Monthly subscriptions will also be expected of each member.

Meetings may be held according to adjournment, or at the call of the President, at such places as may seem desirable. They should be at least monthly.

METHODS FOR PROCURING FUNDS.

As the return of mild weather will now relieve much of the physical suffering among the freed people, we

must henceforth chiefly direct our attention to getting money to pay and support the teachers. Five hundred dollars a year is the estimated expense for each lad. Every society should at once set on foot a plan to secure this sum. Eighty-four monthly subscriptions of five cents each, will bring in five hundred and four dollars in twelve months. This is a sure method; but for those who prefer to make a special effort, let us suggest fair festivals, and entertainments for which tickets are sold. Having thus secured half, or one-third of the amount during the summer, any society would feel at liberty to pledge itself to raise the balance before the end of the school term, and can at once nominate its teacher. The arrangements with teachers must be made in the spring for the following autumn. We have already two hundred and seventy societies in our State. Can they not each send one teacher?

We think it will be a benefit to all interested if the auxiliary societies in each county will hold quarterly meetings, at which they will hand in reports of what they have severally accomplished, and arrange among themselves the plans for the most effective prosecution of their work.

As soon as possible the colored people will be invited to co-operate by paying something, even if it be but a trifle, for the instruction of their children.

"THE NATIONAL FREEDMAN."

The New York National Freedmen's Relief Association publish a monthly organ, *The National Freedman*

at No. 76 John Street. It is a large octavo of thirty-two pages. It is devoted exclusively to an exposition of the needs and condition of the Nation's Wards and the progress of education among them, and contains regularly minute accounts of the work, receipts, and expenditures of the Association. Its correspondence is peculiarly interesting.

Price \$2 per annum, in advance. Every subscriber of \$5 to the treasury of the Association receives a copy of *The National Freedman* for one year free.

Address—Editor *National Freedman*, 76 John Street, New York.

One copy of the *National Freedman* will be sent to each Auxiliary Society. Should the ladies find they can use any more to advantage, they will please apply to the Associate Member of their county, or to the Committee on Correspondence, 22 Bible House, New York.

Every cent saved in printing is so much added to the cause of the freedman.

Many have it in their power to increase largely our subscription list.

THE AMERICAN FREEDMEN'S AND UNION COMMISSION.

OFFICES, } 76 John Street, P. O. Box 5,700, New York City
 } 444 Fourteenth Street, Washington, D. C.
 } 109 Munroe Street, Chicago, Ill.

BISHOP MATTHEW SIMPSON, Philadelphia, *President*.

REV. JOSEPH P. THOMPSON, D. D., New York, }

WILLIAM LEYD GARRISON, Boston, }

Vice Presidents.

CHARLES G. HAMMOND, Chicago, }

REV. LYMAN ABBOTT, 76 John Street, New York, *General Secretary*.

J. MILLER McKIM, 76 John St., New York, *Corresponding Secretary*.

REV. JACOB R. SHIPPERD, 444 Fourteenth Street, Washington, D. C.,

Washington Secretary.

REV. J. M. WALDEN, Box 2,747 Chicago, Ill., *Western Secretary*.

GEORGE C. WARD, 76 John Street, New York, *Treasurer*.

CONSTITUTION.

ART. 1.—This organization shall be known as the AMERICAN FREEDMEN'S AND UNION COMMISSION.

ART. 2.—Its object is to aid and co-operate with the people of the South, without distinction of race or color, in the improvement of their condition, upon the basis of industry, education, freedom, and Christian morality. No schools or supply depots shall be maintained, from the benefits of which any person shall be excluded because of color.

ART. 3.—The Commission shall consist of the persons hereinafter named, their associates and successors; may elect associates, who shall be nominated by the Branch in which the vacancy may occur; shall have power to appoint and remove at discretion its officers, and shall audit their accounts.

ART. 4.—The Commission shall comprise recognized Branches, the Presidents, Corresponding Secretaries, and Treasurers of which shall be *ex-officio* members of the Commission. Each Branch shall be independent of other Branches in the collection of money, and the selection, supervision, and payment of teachers and agents.

ART. 5.—The officers of the Commission shall be a President, three Vice-Presidents, a Treasurer, and one or more Secretaries.

ART. 6.—The Executive Committee shall consist of the following named persons: Matthew Simpson, Joseph P. Thompson, William Lloyd Garrison, Charles G. Hammond, Jacob R. Shipherd, George Cabot Ward, John Parkman, O. B. Frothingham, Francis George Shaw, J. Miller McKim, J. M. Walden, James E. Rhoads, Joseph Parrish, George Whipple, Levi Coffin, Thomas M. Eddy, Archibald Stirling, Jr., Lyman Abbott, George W. Lane, H. M. Pierce, Charles Butler, J. T. Duryea, and Nathan Bishop; five of whom shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. It shall decide, subject to the revision of the Commission, all questions relating to the general policy and action of the Commission.

ART. 7.—Teachers and agents shall be accredited in the name of the Commission, their credentials being attested by the President and one of the Secretaries, and countersigned by the Branch from which they issue.

ART. 8.—Each Branch shall report quarterly to the General Treasurer all moneys received and expended, and all goods received and distributed.

ART. 9.—Contributions from Europe, the Pacific Coast, and other common sources, shall go into the General Treasury, unless otherwise directed by the contributors. Funds in the General Treasury shall be distributed by the Executive Committee to the Branches, or otherwise applied for the purposes of the Commission. The General Treasurer shall make to the Commission an annual exhibit of all receipts and disbursements.

ART. 10.—The Secretaries of the Commission shall make an annual report to the Commission, which, with the annual exhibit of the General Treasurer, shall be published under the direction of the Executive Committee.

ART. 11.—The Commission may be called together by the President or the Executive Committee.

ART. 12.—This Constitution may be amended at any regular meeting of the Commission, notice of the amendment, in writing, having been given at the previous meeting of the Commission, or printed with the notice of the meeting.

N. Y. N. F. N. A.

Officers' Rooms, 76 John Street, N. Y.

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Cor. Sec., REV. WM. G. HAWKINS; *Treas.*, JOSEPH B. COLLINS, 40 Wall Street; *Rec. Sec.*, GEORGE C. WARD;
Sec. of Ex. Com., F. C. ESTES; *Sec. of Teach. and Fin. Com.*, REV. J. J. WOOLSEY, to whom letters in respect to Teachers and Agents should be addressed.

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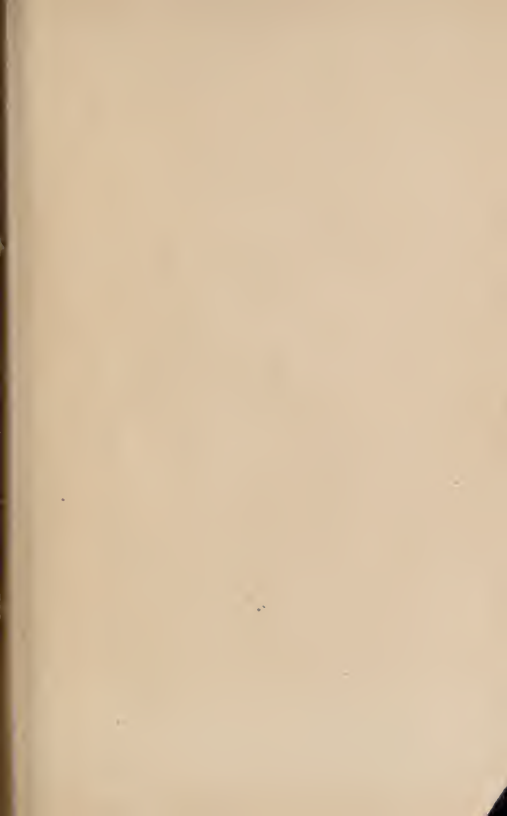
FINANCE COMMITTEE.—GEORGE C. WARD, E. M. KINGSLEY, N. P. HALLOWELL.

COMMITTEE ON TEACHERS AND PUBLICATIONS.—REV. O. B. FROTHINGHAM, *Chairman*; REV. J. J. WOOLSEY, *Sec.*; GEORGE F. NOYES, REV. WM. GEO. HAWKINS, J. M. MCKIM, NATHAN BISHOP, LL. D., REV. E. H. CANFIELD, D. D., REV. DANIEL WISE, D. D.

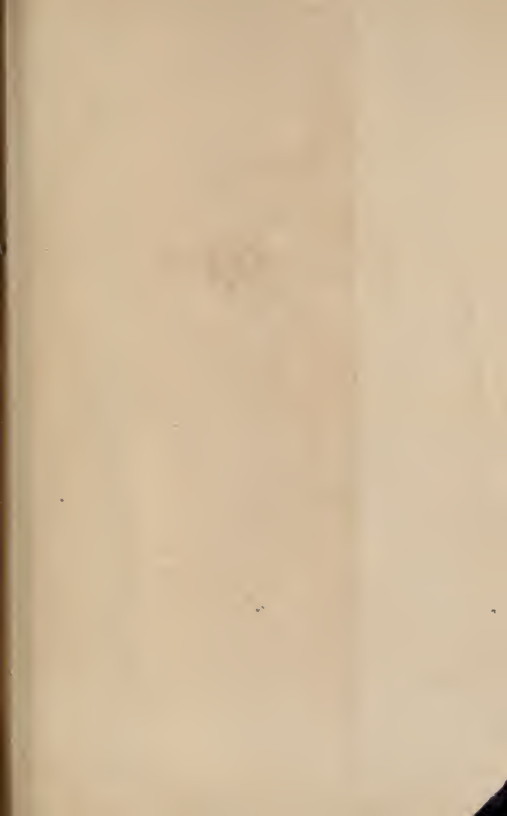
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